



**WCFC Meeting
May 12, 2010
City of Richland Library
955 Northgate Drive
Richland, Washington**

Members present: Terry Flatley, Jeff Beckwith, Jim Flott, Joe Scorcio, Kathleen Wolf, Rich Baker, Sarah Foster, Mark Kahley, Jim Freed, David Nelson, Scott Thomas, Brian Cramer, and Ara Erickson

Members absent: Barbara Hollenbeck, Kelly Puntene, Sandy Salisbury, and Barry Johnson

Guests: Mark Gray, Linden Mead, Tim Werner, and Howard Madsen

Action Items:

- U&CF team will write a letter of introduction to the colleges about Tree Campus USA
- The Outreach Committee was tasked to develop Tree Campus Program for the colleges
- Council members can submit comments about the Statewide Assessment to Sarah
- Legislative Committee will compose letter of conveyance to the Commissioner, highlighting the Council's findings within the Strategic Plan
- Executive Committee will draft letter to Commissioner regarding Articles of Association to review at August meeting.
- Executive Committee will meet and distribute draft revisions to Articles of Association at August meeting
- Sarah will send e-mail to Council to identify subcommittee members
- The Outreach Committee will examine the possibility of continuing the Poster Contest, which may include redesigning.
- Ara will assist with recognition award for August

Meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions – Chair

Joe welcomed everyone to the Washington Community Forestry Council (WCFC) meeting; introductions were made around the table.

Agenda and February 2010 Minutes Review – Vice-Chair/All

The agenda was reviewed. Minutes from the February meeting were approved as presented.

There was a request for clarification of chair for the Outreach Committee confirming that Ara Erickson agreed to be chair at the February Meeting.

Update on Federal Activities, Programs and Funding – Sarah

Barbara is in Alaska, so Sarah updated the Council.

Funding for FY 2010 was increased slightly for State and Private Forestry. State programs are writing narratives and negotiating final work plans with the USFS. Any additional funding will be delivered to communities via Community Forestry Assistance grants. USFS is currently reviewing several NUCFAC

1 grants (projects of national significance) and evaluating proposals for funding. State foresters have been
2 asked to comment on proposals. Award announcements are expected soon.

3
4 The Statewide Assessment and Response Plan is a requirement of the Farm Bill. The assessment will
5 direct cooperative forestry funding into the future. U&CF was addressed by ‘stove piping’ pertinent
6 information into the document with a supporting stand-alone chapter. U&CF will be applicable within the
7 assessment as related to identified high priority landscapes. WCFC will look at and comment on the
8 U&CF chapter today, if interested, Council members may find other program areas applicable to state and
9 private forestry concerns posted on the DNR webpage.

10
11 The report is intended as a contribution of state information to the federal government and may be used to
12 drive priorities that become national in scope as assessments are reviewed. Currently no guidance or
13 decisions relative to management have been made, or discussed with the State. Future grant narratives
14 will likely be tied to the response plan and assessment. WCFC goals set as a group are tied to the U&CF
15 portion of the assessment.

16 17 **U&CF Program Update; 2010 Grants –Sarah**

18 **Arbor Day:** Sarah thanked all those who represented the Council at community meetings. Dave Nelson,
19 Rich Baker, Ara Erickson, Brian Cramer, Mark Kahley, Sandy Salisbury, Terry Flatley, and Council
20 Supporter, Ian Scott. Over half of the communities had representatives at Arbor Day events or Council
21 meetings.

22
23 **Arbor Day tree reimbursement** has been successful. To date 15 communities have sent reimbursements
24 with community matching funds totaling three times that of the reimbursement request, with over 100
25 trees planted. The council agreed that this is a great PR program. Next year the hope is to include Tree
26 City USA (TCUSA), Tree Line USA and Tree Campus USA in the reimbursement program. Currently
27 there are two Tree Campuses. She would like to see more utilities involved in Tree Line USA, as there
28 hasn’t been a new one in Washington in a number of years.

29
30 Sarah, Linden and Brian Cramer gave an overview of the Tree Campus Program.

31
32 Rich Baker suggested creating a cover letter of introduction for the WCFC, so Council can approach
33 colleges. The outreach committee to develop this project, and Sarah agreed to draft a cover letter. Toyota
34 sponsors the program nationally.

35
36 **Poster contest:** Arbor Day Foundation (ADF) has eliminated this program, but will support states by
37 allowing them access to past program materials. Bellevue is interested in initiating a statewide poster
38 contest. This could be a great WCFC project, as the U&CF program does not target youth education.

39
40 **Community Forestry Assistance Grant Summary:** There were 45 applications; with some great
41 projects and many partnerships. Twenty-seven were selected for funding. We are currently in the approval
42 process. There was significant match demonstrated, even though this was not a requirement of the grant.
43 Grant proposals included program management, education and inventory/management projects. Selection
44 committee included, Sarah, Linden, Nicki Eisfeldt, and Sandy Salisbury. There will be a meeting
45 scheduled with communities to review projects and grant reporting protocol. Sarah is optimistic that
46 additional grant funding will be available this fall or spring

47
48 Kathy Wolf pointed out that one time grants are not proven to be successful in building programs.
49 Questioned whether there is encouragement for and policy regarding sequential grants. Sarah commented
50 that the sporadic nature of funding does not always allow for sequential projects, although this is
51 encouraged. We can’t at this time guarantee funding for sequential projects.

1 Terry asked about the timing of the urban initiative grant. Sarah stated that it was in the works, following
2 completion of the first round of Community Forestry Assistance Grants. \$90,000 is available and will be
3 offered to larger cities, over 50,000.

4
5 Other Programming – U&CF is partnering with Davey Tree and Cascade Land Conservancy to present i-
6 Tree training in Seattle.

7
8 The anti-topping campaign has been on hold during winter due to other staff commitments. It will pick
9 back up after Arbor Day activities are complete. U&CF staff will be working with the Communications
10 Section at DNR.

11
12 ISA is making a pointed effort to work with allied professions and is attempting to encourage speakers
13 from allied professions to attend arborist conferences and vice versa.

14
15 The “Tree Protection on Construction and Development Sites” booklets are available and free to cities,
16 conservation districts, planners and developers. A display is being created for greater visibility at
17 association events that will pair with the books.

18
19 New project with Oregon, a technology transfer grant will create two to three minute pieces on a variety
20 of U&CF subjects. Four states will be working on this, and information will be posted at one site when
21 complete.

22
23 An Inter-Agency Agreement is in the works with WA General Administration, Facilities Management –
24 DNR will provide arboriculture consulting services on the Capitol Campus.

25
26 It was noted that Puget Sound Energy is generously providing lunch for the guests at today’s meeting.

27 28 **Strategic Plan (DNR and U&CF) – Chair and All**

29 “The Goldmark Agenda,” (TGA) and the U&CF Strategic Plan, were passed out to all present.
30 U&CF needs to review TGA to see how urban forestry fits in, especially in cross – referencing with the
31 U&CF Strategic Plan. This will assist with the program’s ability to tie into outside program opportunities.

32
33 Statewide assessment is still a draft document; the full document is expected June 10. The USFS tasked
34 states to evaluate resources based on three national themes. The USFS themes are: Conserve working
35 forest landscapes, Protect forests from harm, and Enhance public benefits from trees and forests. DNR
36 organized stakeholder meetings and work started about a year ago. Inventory data from the Evergreen
37 Communities Act (ECA) should have been available. Since this was not the case, assessment was based
38 on CARS data that is currently used for USFS grant reporting and based on criteria that evaluates
39 elements within the U&CF program – staff, inventory, ordinance, management plan. Tree City USA
40 program has grown 111% over the time the program has been in existence. Focus of WA U&CF is
41 stronger than most states. Comments are still being accepted for the Statewide Assessment, and the
42 Council members are encouraged to submit comments to Sarah.

43
44 Joe commented that the U&CF Strategic Plan should be used as a reference in identifying program
45 crossovers in TGA fixed document; a list of action items could then be created for performance
46 assessment and development plans in the program.

47
48 The Council broke into small groups to review the TGA and U&CF Strategic Action Plan to look for ties
49 between the two documents, and to look for places where U&CF can help achieve goals within the TGA,
50 to help develop program programming for U&CF.

51
52 Kathy has recommendations regarding layout and referencing within the document; which Sarah replied
53 could be incorporated.

1 **Strategic Plan Review of Notes, and Linkages to the Agency's Plan**

2 **Mark Gray Group**

3 Links found in Goal 3, "preserving forest cover"; should emphasize increasing cover, may be beneficial
4 to describe how urban forests are working for communities.

6 Goal 3.D Community Forest Trust – state trust lands converted to community forests, purchasing land
7 from trust for community benefits.

9 Goal IV clean up Puget Sound – a strong link to communities

11 Goal V significant to energy conservation, Carbon sequestration – opportunity to link urban Forestry to
12 Carbon

14 Goal VI.F Agency resources being used efficiently – Partnering with council, cities and interagencies
15 demonstrates effective working with the government

17 **Linden Mead Group**

18 There is a need to emphasize that links are based on strong science vs. statements of opinions, in regard to
19 U&CF environmental, economic and social benefits.

21 I.E – Protect ecosystems – limiting pest populations through import regulations, connecting with
22 communities to develop awareness and monitoring.

24 I.F. Recreation – policy updates for sustainable landscapes and management/maintenance can improve
25 safety and health of outdoor recreation areas. Urban Forestry strategies are strongly associated with
26 recreational usage.

28 I.F.3 Expand beyond DNR-managed lands to address social needs in urban areas.

30 II.D Forest practices rules would be strengthened with BMP's associated with tree management in urban
31 and natural areas.

33 IV. City trees/storm water management/ heat island effects are all moderated by the presence of trees.
34 This is a strong link to Puget Sound Clean-up and Restoration. Outreach communication tools for U&CF
35 have strong interdepartmental program connections and messaging

37 IV. B Aquatics & water quality are directly affected by tree cover.

39 IV.B.4 could expand "provide seedlings" to language that recognized the need for planning, management
40 and maintenance

42 V Climate Change – urban canopy reduces fuel consumption, heat island effects, creates green spaces
43 locally, reducing long-distant travel and reducing pressure for land conversion; raises quality of life; and
44 carbon sequestration.

46 It is important to articulate that vision, mission, and guiding principles outline resource sustainability.
47 Conceptually urban forestry is different, but 87 percent of the population lives in urban forests, so urban
48 forestry merits recognition as a separate resource.

50 **Sarah Foster Group**

51 Scott – ECA is implementing many of the points within TGA strategic plan and U&CF strategic plan is
52 being implemented through TCUSA.

54 Goal VI pg 30 IV.B.5 applied to state lands may be translated into plans for city infrastructure.

1
2 IV.C.2 Puget Sound jobs program is about implementation of ECA, in particular with urban forestry
3 stream systems.
4

5 Jeff suggested the Council compose a letter addressing concerns with TGA, which may not be readily
6 apparent; but point out areas where there are crossovers/connections, and how it could be strengthened
7 with U&CF.
8

9 Kathy – no images of urban forestry, while symbolic this is an important representation of priorities.
10

11 Joe stated that the Legislative Committee will take on letter of conveyance to the Commissioner,
12 highlighting the Council’s findings within the Strategic Plan.
13

14 Kathy collection of comments too lengthy, but condensation of comments re: broader policy to include
15 urban forestry is important.
16

17 **Talking Points for Commissioner (in response to invitation to utilize DNR Strategic Plan)**

18 Mark Kahley said we must provide advice on U&CF issues; it is an essential role for the Commissioner to
19 receive input from Council. It is important to reference the Growth Management Act and Evergreen
20 Communities Act in the letter
21

22 A motion was made to authorize preparation of letter by the Legislative Committee to be signed by
23 Chairman Joe Scorcio, from WCFC to Commissioner Goldmark. Motion passed.
24

25 There was discussion on the letter.
26

27 Dave Nelson suggested for all who wish, to submit language to be included in letter, and to use the draft
28 notes from discussion groups and reference to principles.
29

30 **Statewide Assessment - Sarah**

31 The document is open for public review. Any suggestions for improvements or insertions can be sent to
32 Sarah by Friday 25th.
33

34 **The Council had a break out session to discuss the Statewide Assessment.**

35 We need the eastside cities concerns; increase canopy vs. canopy loss. Need to emphasize diversity of
36 state and opportunities that entails. Include species diversity, state of and condition of forest resource, and
37 other management concerns. There was a suggestion to seek representational data (2 cities one east one
38 west. It is important to show data gaps that could be addressed by continued ECA. Inventories need
39 management and follow-up. i-Tree falls short in achieving these goals. References to the Urban Forestry
40 sustainability model (resource, management, community) could guide the document.
41

42 The Council viewed a six minute clip of a newly released U&CF video by the USFS “Community Trees a
43 Living Investment” - The cover letter encouraged communities to utilize the clips on local access
44 channels and webpage. DNR communications is checking into posting onto websites
45

46 **Award Presentation**

47 Joe welcomed guests during the lunch break by introducing members of Council – who is on the Council
48 and why we are here. He explained the awards program and how and why Mid-Columbia Community
49 Forestry Council was selected. He commented that the Council’s outreach, sponsorship and coordination
50 of Arbor Day events, their annual Arbor Day poster contest, ordinance creation and revisions, were all
51 impressive, and ongoing accomplishments. In addition Mid-Columbia Council has been very active as
52 members of the WCFC.
53

Howard Madsen, past WCFC member, accepted the award as president of the Mid-Columbia Council. He told the WCFC that Mid Columbia Council has planted over 1,000 trees in the area. Tim Werner, the Urban Forester from Richland, discussed their anti-topping program; which was adapted from Vancouver and designed by the University of Pennsylvania. All materials are available digitally and to commercial companies. Tim Werner shared the "Think before You Top" PowerPoint narrated by Mid-Columbia council member.

Meetings

Summer meeting discussion; the State has eliminated many advisory boards and there is a need to be cost effective in our actions. August meeting be held and/or location changed. Mark Gray emphasized the need to be frugal in meeting the requirements of the Council.

Discussion points were:

1. Conference call is acceptable but cannot make decisions.
 2. If no pressing council issues, then could cancel.
 3. Possibility something may come up, suggestion to hold date and use as necessary.
 4. Holding meetings demonstrates importance of meetings; fiscal responsibility is demonstrated by holding meetings on the Westside.
 5. WCFC prefers statewide meetings but recognizes the need to be fiscally responsible. Also recognizes the importance of Council presence in local areas to spread the word of U&CF.
 6. Can scheduling be shifted? Bylaws call for Nov. and Feb. meetings; to change articles of association would take a more focused discussion.
 7. Consensus to meet in Spokane.
 8. **Motion:** Scott Thomas moved to switch meeting site locations to Kirkland August 11, Spokane November 17, and discuss at the August meeting timing and place for follow-up meetings.
- Motion passed.**
9. Ara suggested subcommittees meet earlier in the agenda rather than at the end.
 10. Rich - Outreach Committee suggestion to address lack of U&CF awareness in DNR. What is being done? Sarah: Communications group is very committed to spreading information throughout the agency, would like to see increase in region participation in U&CF.

Break out in Legislative and Outreach groups

Executive Committee will meet to go over Articles of Association and distribute at August meeting. At the August meeting breakouts will be scheduled first, followed by body of meeting and final breakout with subcommittees to regroup, and discuss action plans.

Executive: Articles of Association – in order to amend, the revised agreement must be sent to state forester and CPL for signature. Draft of letter to commissioner will be completed and circulated to Commissioner for review

Outreach overview – need clarification of Committee members. We have four items to focus on creating a template for recognition program; identify allied professions and understand messages to be exchanged; Tree Campus and Line, greater emphasis; and Council communiqué in TreeLink.

Ara will assist with recognition award for August.

Poster contest – Outreach committee will examine the possibility of continuing which may include redesigning; but does not anticipate Council administration of program.

Kathy – passed out information on latest research projects: Green Cities and National Resource for Benefits of Urban Trees

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m. Next meeting is August 11, 2010, in Kirkland.